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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-sixth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Aleg Yermalovich (Belarus)

Addendum**Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019**

(Item 3 (b) (ii))

Programme 12**Human settlements**

1. At its 14th meeting, on 8 June 2016, the Committee considered programme 12, Human settlements, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 12)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework, contained in conference room paper E/AC.51/2016/CRP.1/Rev.1.

2. The Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Appreciation was expressed for the presentation of the report of the Secretary-General, which, it was noted, contained improved and well-articulated subprogrammes. While recognizing the challenge to find outcomes that were logically connected with the work of UN-Habitat, a delegation pointed out that some indicators of achievement could be more focused on outcomes rather than outputs.

4. The view was expressed that the programme was topical in the light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and it was noted that the document showed a clear linkage with Goal 11 of the Sustainable Development Goals and was consonant with the three pillars of urban development.



5. It was pointed out that the proposal for programme 12 would not be complete without reflecting the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). It was also noted that, while the expectation to adjust the programme on the basis of the results of the Conference would be logical and reasonable, the Conference should not be seen as an opportunity to expand mandates and resources but rather as an opportunity to find effective ways to reallocate and use existing resources in order to target objectives agreed at the Conference and articulated in the 2030 Agenda.
6. The importance of an integrated and holistic approach to urbanization was emphasized, although it was noted that the work of UN-Habitat should not overlap with the work of other relevant United Nations entities, as well as national, multinational and governmental efforts in the area. Encouragement was expressed for the integration and alignment of the work of UN-Habitat with that of other relevant organizations.
7. Emphasis was made on the key role of States in bringing about the sustainable development of urban areas and on the importance of continued UN-Habitat support to national governing bodies in the area of urbanization. The view was also expressed that, in its work on data collection, monitoring and evaluation, as well as specifically under subprogramme 6, Risk reduction and rehabilitation, the role of UN-Habitat was not supervisory but must be one of guidance, assistance and support to country efforts.
8. On the strategy for subprogramme 1, Urban legislation, land and governance, clarification was requested on the UrbanLex database and the Global Land Tool Network. Clarification was also sought on the scope, content and mandated origins of the United Nations Advisory Committee on Local Authorities.
9. It was noted that the role of governments in providing adequate human settlements infrastructure had not been appropriately reflected in the indicators of achievement under subprogramme 2, Urban planning and design. The view was also expressed that contributions to come from international cooperation for that purpose had not been identified and that any proposals for private sector funding in that regard might lead to conflicts of interest, given the associated social challenges.
10. It was noted that paragraph 12.31 of the strategy for subprogramme 6, Risk reduction and rehabilitation, should specify which programme having to do with climate change would have the responsibility for carrying out the implementation of the referenced international frameworks.
11. With regard to the increased number of urban observatories referenced in indicator of achievement (a) (i) under subprogramme 7, Urban research and capacity development, the view was expressed that such a mechanism should be chosen freely by Member States in accordance with national legislation. It was also noted that indicators of achievement under subprogramme 7 should be identified by means of available statistical information. Clarification was sought on the use of statistical information from national publications or other United Nations organizations. It was also suggested that, rather than prioritizing its own tools, UN-Habitat should focus its work on making recommendations for specific tools and methods so that cities and countries could collect data on their own.
12. The view was expressed that the anticipated outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit, referenced in paragraph 12.7 of the overall orientation, were

not mandates of intergovernmental bodies per se. In that regard, delegations noted that amendments would be required to programme 12 once the relevant report of the Secretary-General was issued. The need to review which aspects of the event could be reflected at the present stage was also noted.

Conclusions and recommendations

13. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that, in order to achieve its objective of assisting Member States in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, the programme is realigned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, in line with established procedures.

14. The Committee welcomed the overall orientation of the programme, which takes into account the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on climate change, and welcomed the references to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

15. The Committee welcomed the alignment of UN-Habitat and its strategic plan with Goal 11 and the urban targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

16. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 12, Human settlements, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019, subject to the following modifications:

Overall orientation

Paragraph 12.6

At the end of the paragraph, replace "vulnerable people such as the poor, people living with disabilities, older persons, young people and women" with "people in vulnerable situations".

Paragraph 12.7

Replace the second sentence with the following:

"In coordinating the response to the global strategic processes, including the outcome of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, as well as the anticipated outcomes of Habitat III, the following seven subprogrammes continue to be highly relevant."

Paragraph 12.9

Replace the paragraph with the following:

"12.9 UN-Habitat will increase outreach efforts and disseminate key messages to enhance global awareness and sensitization of sustainable urbanization issues."

Paragraph 12.11

Replace the last sentence with the following:

“Special attention will be paid to promoting the principle of optimization of the population density and economic density of urban settlements and, where appropriate, mixed land use, diversity and better connectivity, in order to increase urban value and productivity, and equitable access to basic services.”

Paragraph 12.16

In the second sentence, after “to support”, insert “, upon request by appropriate authorities,”.

Paragraph 12.22

Insert “coordinate,” before “cooperate and collaborate”.

Subprogramme 1

Urban legislation, land and governance

Strategy

Paragraph 12.24

Replace the last sentence with the following:

“This integrated approach is central to the effective delivery of the 2030 Agenda.”

Subprogramme 2

Urban planning and design

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), insert “and for planned urban expansions” after “inclusive cities”.

In expected accomplishment (b), insert “and for planned urban expansions” after “and neighbourhoods”.

Subprogramme 4

Urban basic services

Strategy

Paragraph 12.29

Replace paragraph 12.29 with the following:

“12.29 A key focus of subprogramme 4 is on supporting local, regional and national authorities responsible for urban and human settlements issues in developing and implementing policies for increasing equitable access to urban basic services and improving the standard of living of the urban poor, including in collaboration, where appropriate, with the private sector as well as non-profit

actors. The strategy for achieving the expected accomplishments is as follows:"

In subparagraph (b), replace the fourth sentence with the following:

"It will also continue to strengthen its work with governments and the private sector to channel financial support to expand access to urban basic services and to promote international cooperation in this regard as well."

Subprogramme 5

Housing and slum upgrading

Strategy

Paragraph 12.30

In the third sentence of subparagraph (b), delete "and meet the density and mixed-use requirements under the New Urban Agenda".

Subprogramme 6

Risk reduction and rehabilitation

Strategy

Paragraph 12.31

In the first sentence of subparagraph (a), replace "set and monitor" with "provide technical assistance for interested Member States on".

At the end of subparagraph (a), delete ", along with the mandates emerging from the World Humanitarian Summit".

Subprogramme 7

Urban research and capacity development

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (a) (i), after "using", insert ", upon approval by appropriate authorities,".